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THE RED CROSS

IN CHARGE OF

JANE A. DELANO, R.N.

Chairman of the National Committee on Red Cross Nursing Service

RED CROSS SERVICE DURING THE PERRY CENTENNIAL

BY FRANCES MUNRO

On September 3, a meeting of the Cleveland Red Cross Nursing Service Committee was called by Miss Johnson, the chairman, at the Isabel Hampton Robb Memorial Club House, to discuss plans for the appointment of nurses to serve in first-aid Red Cross stations during the Perry Centennial, the week of September 14.

Miss Johnson stated that Mrs. Fanning, a member of the local Red Cross Chapter, had been appointed by his honor, Mayor Baker, to look after this part of the celebration and had asked her to furnish nurses. Miss Johnson told her this could not be done without permission from Red Cross authorities at Washington. Miss Johnson wrote Miss Delano and at the meeting read a telegram, part of which was as follows:

You are authorized to call on as many Red Cross Nurses as are necessary in First Aid Stations if in coöperation with Cleveland Red Cross Chapter and if expenses are paid locally.

A letter further added:

It would be necessary to have a carefully selected nurse in charge of each station and that caps and brassards would be furnished from Washington.

Miss Johnson also reported that she had been invited to attend a meeting of the Red Cross Chapter at which Mrs. Fanning had been appointed Arrangements Committee and the Chairman of the Red Cross Nursing Service for the Centennial, also that \$15 had been voted by the Chapter to the nurses for emergency supplies, but to be used only if absolutely necessary, supplies to be obtained by donation if possible.

The list of members was looked over and it was found that probably fifty-nine were within reach. A number of these were selected for head nurses, all were to be asked to volunteer their services for the whole or as much of the time as they could arrange for. It was decided

to have three stations, to meet again the following week, and to ask Mrs. Fanning to be present.

On September 8, the second meeting was held with Mrs. Fanning, Mr. Eugene Foster of the Associated Charities, and Miss Evans, Director of the Training Class in Social Nursing, present.

Mrs. Fanning said that Dr. R. H. Bishop had been offered by Dr. Dawney of Lakeside Hospital; Dr. Ricard of St. Luke's and Mr. Howard Dwight of the City Hospital had offered the services of their house staff for continuous professional duty at the stations. Mrs. Fanning undertook to obtain the tents, cots, mattresses, pillows, and distillata, also the help of Boy Scouts and police protection; the nurses were to solicit from other sources the donation of all other necessary furnishings and supplies.

Miss Johnson reported that owing to the absence of so many nurses from the city it would be impossible to maintain more than two tents during the whole time. One of these was to be at Ninth Street and Lakeside Avenue, near the mooring of the *Niagara*, Commodore Perry's flagship which recently has been recovered from its long resting place at the bottom of Lake Erie and has taken so prominent a part at all the Perry celebrations during the summer. In this locality a great concourse of people was expected to assemble. The other tent was to be situated in the Public Square, always a center in Cleveland life.

Mr. Maymond, secretary of the Local Red Cross Chapter, wrote to Washington for four Red Cross flags, and Mr. Foster suggested having, and said he would provide, membership tickets to be kept at the tents for the greater convenience of enlisting the interest of visitors to the cause.

Miss Evans volunteered as head nurse for one tent during the four days and Mrs. Engel thought the Babies' Dispensary Red Cross Nurses could supervise and take entire charge of the other. It was decided to have the hours of duty from 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Saturday morning the tents were in place and the day was spent in making them ready for patients. Each was provided with two cots, a coal oil stove, distillata, chairs, screens, head nurse's desk, surgical tables and all drugs, instruments, dressings and equipment necessary for emergency work. Each nurse had her own hypodermic syringe.

The nurses served for the whole or half a day as they were able, three or four on duty all the time in addition to the head nurse.

At the Public Square Station were six doctors from the City Hospital, in turns half a day each. At the Ninth Street and Lakeside tent six doctors from the Lakeside Hospital assisted.

Giving drinks of water, showing courtesy to visitors and explaining

the purpose of the Red Cross demanded no inconsiderable time. There was a constant stream of onlookers, many prompted by an idle curiosity usual at such times, but again many with a real interest in the work of the Association. A visitor's book was kept in which when possible all were asked to sign their names.

In addition to the care this entailed, seven people received medical or surgical aid at the Ninth and Lakeside tent, one of them being transferred from there to the Lakeside Hospital, being carried in a hand chair by the Boy Scouts.

The Public Square Station, being more in the center of things, was naturally a busier scene of activity. In all, forty-three people were cared for there. Medical or surgical aid was given to twenty-two, rest and drinks to nineteen and refuge to two lost children. On Wednesday, the day of the parade, the two cots were constantly occupied—two cases were referred to hospitals and one transferred to the Huron Road Hospital.

The sum total of people cared for was 50.

On Tuesday Miss Johnson called an informal meeting of the Committee at the Public Square Station to meet Miss Mary E. Gladwin, of Akron, Chairman Ohio State Committee Red Cross Nursing Service. She had visited both stations and appeared pleased with all the arrangements and appointments. She and Miss Johnson expressed the need (and the idea was also suggested by Mrs. Fanning) of having a fully-equipped permanent Red Cross tent stored in a suitable place, to be used for demonstrations and also to be ready for any emergency.

It was with regret the members received Miss Johnson's resignation as Chairman of the Local Committee on Red Cross Nursing Service. Her knowledge of organization and cheerfulness in guiding and helping in any work will be greatly missed during her short absence from Cleveland. Miss Gladwin appointed Frances Munro as temporary chairman till the end of the year.

The nurses were sorry Miss Gladwin's stay was a hurried one. Her knowledge of the Red Cross work gained from an extended and varied experience make her advice very valuable and her energy is inspiring. Her brief visit was very much appreciated.

Owing to the continued absence of nurses from the city the plan for a model station under the supervision of Miss Edith Morgan, which it was hoped might be arranged and open for inspection on Wednesday, the day of the parade, had to be abandoned.

Too much praise cannot be given the Boy Scouts for their gentlemanly manners and willing and intelligent aid in carrying people to the tents, giving drinks of water, assisting with errands and in the

removal of furnishings at the close. Four were on duty during the day in each tent and two with a scout master or assistant scout master served as protection at night. On several occasions they were at these times called upon to themselves render first-aid. Several mornings notes pinned to the tent poles were found, saying, for example:

"To The Nurses:

Last night we had to use some of your supplies for which we are sorry, but it was necessary.

At your service always,

JOHN SMITH,
Assistant Scout Master, Troop —

The nurses on duty during the Centennial were: Head nurses, Cecelia Evans and Mrs. Austa Engel; assisting nurses, Mrs. Carrie Lewis, Mrs. Minnie Hosman, Mrs. Adelaide McKee and the Misses Emma Mandery, Edith Morgan, Louise Litzenstock, Anna Gladwin, Margaret Weidemann, Fern Smith, Anna Ellis, Rosina Volk, Josephine Webster, Katherine Rickmers, Ina Clark, Ethel Osborne, Evelyn Spieth, Emma Sedkle, Susan House, Caroline Wuertz, Margaret Trojan, Moyer, Mary Duffy, Ethel Hanson and Frances Munro.

The nurses were very grateful for the kindness of those who either loaned or donated the articles and furnishings for the tents and also to those who showed other and varied courtesies.

Wednesday evening his honor Mayor Baker sent word through Miss Fanning that the need for the service was at an end. Thursday morning, therefore, the tents were dismantled. All who took part felt that the work done was not a vain one and that at any future public celebration of such an extensive nature the need for the Red Cross nurses would be felt and asked for.